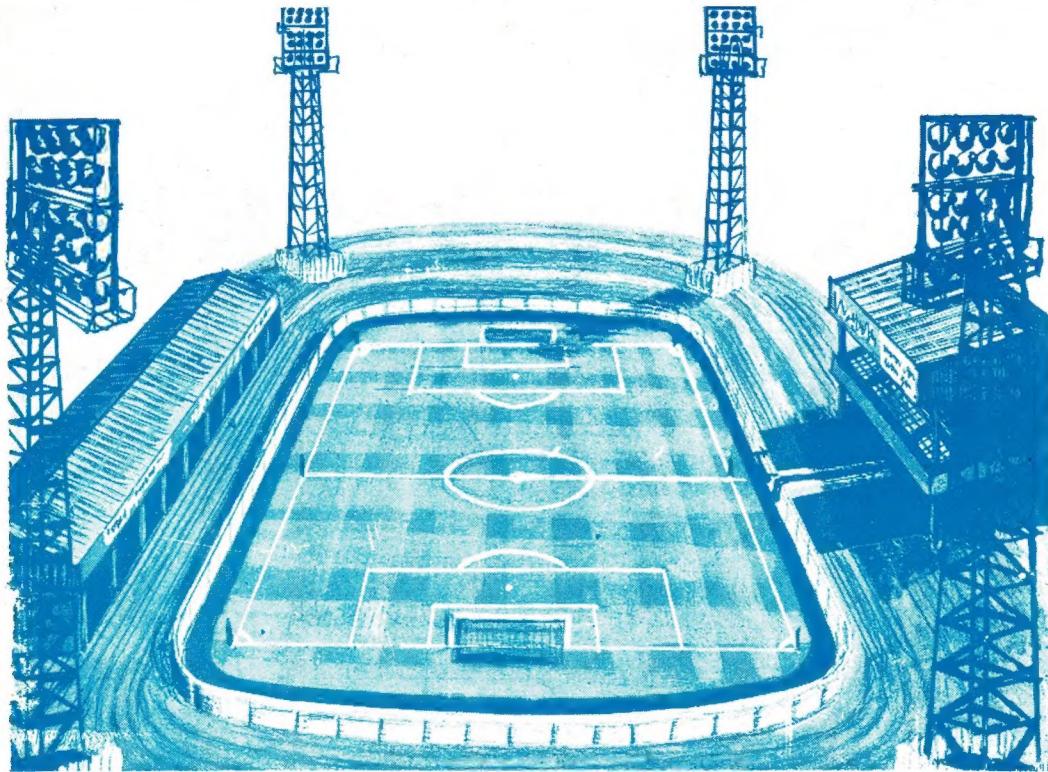


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

v.

NEWPORT COUNTY

Saturday, 2nd September, 1978

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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NEWPORT COUNTY, our visitors today, will be playing their first ever game at Springfield Park. Newport is the representative of Monmouthshire in the Football League, they were formed in 1911 by a number of workers who had migrated from the Black Country to work in the iron foundries. Intended at first purely as a works football club they were for long disdained by local dignitaries who were wedded to the game of rugby.

The Club's activities were, for some years, confined to local competitions organised by Monmouthshire FA. Eventually, however, they gained admission to the Southern League and in 1921 were one of the original members of the 3rd Division (South); there they stayed for ten years. In 1931 they failed to gain sufficient support at the League's A.G.M. and went out, but returned again the following year, 1932.

In 1939 they gained promotion to the 2nd Division and everything seemed very much brighter for the future, but the War intervened, and they did not play their first full season in Division 2 until 1946-47.

Newport are one of the fourteen clubs in Wales selected by the F.A. to take part in the F.A. Cup, they reached the fifth round proper in 1949.

Somerton Park is the name of their ground, their record gate was in 1937 when in a League game against Cardiff City no fewer than 24,268 people were crowded in. They are nicknamed "The Ironsiders."

We welcome their players, directors and officials to Wigan and hope the game provides the spectators with 90 minutes good entertainment.

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A word from the Manager

I am sure you will all join me in wishing MICKY MOORE every success on his return to Springfield Park. Micky was a warm favourite before he left to try his luck with Port Vale. Things unfortunately have not gone too well for him, mainly I feel because he was playing in mid-field. One of Micky's priceless assets is turning people in the box, and his 23 goals here before he left speaks for itself. I welcome him back, and he will be an extremely valuable addition to our squad of players.

EARLY LESSONS

Although we are still in the experimental stage in our Football League debut season we have learned valuable lessons already. One is that no two matches are alike, and although we got a point at Hereford playing man for man with a sweeper, it didn't quite work out at Reading. It went quite well for around 40 minutes, but when Reading were given the penalty kick it gave them all the confidence they needed. We changed to 4-3-3 against Luton Town, bringing Ian Seddon into mid-field and we performed reasonably well against the 2nd Division side.

PROMOTION CANDIDATES

I would say very early on that Grimsby Town must certainly be promotion material. In all the matches we have played so far, and of all the matches Ken Banks and I have covered, they were easily the best side. So if any of you fancy a little flutter I would treble Grimsby Town for promotion, with Chester from the Third Division, and Liverpool for Division One Championship.

Enjoy today's match.

IAN McNEILL,
Manager.

Forthcoming Fixtures

NEXT HOME MATCH — FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIVISION 4

WEDNESDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC v. ROCHDALE

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

SATURDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC RESERVES v. CHESTER 'A'

LOCATION OF FOURTH DIVISION CLUBS 1978-79



Newport County Pen Pictures

GARY PLUMLEY (Goalkeeper). Born Birmingham. He joined Leicester City from school in 1972 as an apprentice but didn't make his League debut until he was transferred to Newport County in the summer of 1976. In the last two seasons he has missed only six first team matches.

RICHARD WALDEN (Full-back). Born, Hereford. His first professional club was Aldershot for whom he made over 400 League appearances before Len Ashurst signed him for Sheffield Wednesday in January 1976. Last season he was Wednesday's only ever present in League and Cup matches, and he joined Newport County for a £3,500 fee on July 29th following the sitting of the first-ever transfer tribunal.

JOHN RELISH (Full-back/Midfield). Born, Huyton near Liverpool. He began his career with Chester, and after a short loan spell with Bury joined Newport County in the summer of 1974. Apart from December 1975 to December 1976 when he was absent through a broken leg, he has been a first-team regular and last season missed only seven League and Cup matches.

GRANT DAVIES (Defender). Born, Barrow. He played for Cumbria Schools and joined Preston as an apprentice professional, signing full forms in 1977. He has been a regular reserve team player over the last two seasons and Joined Newport County on trial in July 1978.

RON WALKER (Defender). Born, Kingsbury, Middlesex. Began his career at Watford before joining Workington in 1971. He spent five years with them and had a short loan spell at Aldershot in 72/73. He joined Newport County in the summer of 1976 and has only missed nine first-team games in the last two seasons.

TONY BYRNE (Full-back/Midfield). Captain, Born, Rathdowney, Eire. He joined Millwall from school in 1962, but moved on to Southampton after a year. He spent ten years at The Dell, as a regular first team player and gained 16 caps for Eire. He was transferred to Hereford in the summer of 1973, and came to Newport County in March 1977. Last season he missed only seven League and Cup matches, playing mainly at full-back.

TREVOR THOMPSON (Full-back/Midfield). Born, North Shields near Newcastle. A former Tynemouth schools player who joined West Bromwich as an associate schoolboy before becoming an apprentice with the club. He signed full professional forms just before making his League debut for Albion in February 1974 and has been their reserve-team captain over the past few seasons. He joined Newport County for an £8,000 fee on July 17th 1978.

NIGEL VAUGHAN (Midfield/Full-back). Born, Caerleon, near Newport. A Welsh Youth International who joined the Club in 1975 as an apprentice professional. He made his first-team debut in November 1976 and signed full professional forms in the summer of 1977. Last season he made 13 League and Cup appearances.

HOWARD GODDARD (Forward). Born, Over Wallop, Hants. Joined AFC Bournemouth from school making his League debut at the age of 15. He was a regular member of their line-up until joining Swindon on a free transfer in the summer of 1976, but injury kept him out of the side for a large part of that season. He joined Newport County in August 1977 and was the Club's leading scorer last season with 19 League and Cup goals. He was also voted by supporters as the Club's Player of the Year.

EDDIE WOODS (Forward). Born, Pentre, Rhondda. He joined Bristol City from Welsh League side Ferndale in October 1971. In '73/74 he had short loan spells with Folkestone and Scunthorpe, and joined Newport County on loan in September 1974. He was signed for £5,000 in November 1974, and has since been a regular goalscorer. Last season he was hampered by a leg injury and made only 18 League and Cup appearances, in which he scored 11 goals.

MARK WILLIAMS (Midfield). Born, Hereford. Joined Arsenal as an apprentice from school but was released in '75/76. After a spell in non-league football he joined Newport County towards the end of that season and was signed as a professional in the summer of 1976. He has been a regular member of the side during the last two seasons.

COLIN SINCLAIR (Forward). Born, Edinburgh. Began his career in Scottish non-league football before joining Raith Rovers in 1968. He was transferred to Darlington in 1971 and was a regular with them until joining Hereford for a £10,000 fee in October 1976. Newport County signed him for a £5,000 fee in January 1978 and last season he made 15 League appearances for the Club.

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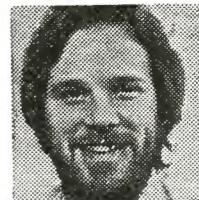
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LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



Two League defeats and already some of Wigan Athletic's more fickle followers are verging on the near hysterical in their prophecies of end of season gloom and doom.

Given ammunition by the results against Grimsby Town and Reading, the "doubters" have had a field day knocking the club, ignoring the fact that just as one swallow doesn't make a summer, a couple of defeats don't mean re-election.

Swept away by the euphoria of Football League election, Latics fans may have been convinced of a Hereford-type march up the table, and although the 3-0 League home debut hammering by Grimsby was an especially bitter disappointment, the fans can only blame themselves for the magnitude of the let-down.

Manager Ian McNeill has never at any time promised success and repeated over and over again that it will be hard in Division 4. Any false hopes some fans may have had cannot be laid at his door.

All Mr. McNeill promised was a team which gives 100 per cent every game and so far that's what the fans have got. A spectator who pays to watch professional football is entitled to criticise, but not to start crucifying people after two early setbacks.

The League Cup triumph over Division 3 Tranmere Rovers has been overshadowed and today's opponents Newport come up against a Latics team still looking to score their first League goal after three matches.

It's certainly not all roses on the League scene, but far too soon to start talking about failure. Mr. McNeill said at the outset that it would take two months at least before he knew whether Latics with the present staff were going to sink or swim—all some people have given him and his players are two games.

Personally speaking the only thing I can feel justified in grousing about is the so-called five man defence experiment. To play five at the back at home relying on fullbacks to play a dual role as part-time wingers didn't go down too well. A defence like that didn't find much favour among home fans who I think have a right to expect their team geared to attacking the visitors.

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Evening Post & Chronicle

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

During our campaign for League Football we maintained that our crowd potential was probably better than most other Fourth Division clubs, and our two home gates with Tranmere Rovers and Grimsby Town has more than justified that prediction. Please keep it up for the next 21 home games.

Today's game with Newport County, to whom we extend a warm welcome, will give us the opportunity to assess just how much breathing space you, our supporters, will give Mr. McNeill and his team to acclimatize themselves to League Football.

Our initiation into the League has been a difficult one, meeting teams who in my opinion will be challenging for honours by the end of the current season. In the first and second rounds of the League Cup we were drawn against opposition from higher leagues, and although we lost to Luton, I consider we well deserved a draw after an outstanding team performance.

Whilst we are not yet in a position to pay high transfer fees, we will, at the discretion of the Manager, add to our playing staff, but there will be no panic buying.

Today we should see the return of Micky Moore, a popular player in last seasons team. A player with plenty League experience, Mick has been resigned from Port Vale and we hope he will provide the answer to those elusive goals. Welcome back to Springfield.

Enjoy the game today, and continue to give the Club your full support. Let's hope we can register that first goal in League football today.

ARTHUR HORROCKS,

Chairman.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

SATURDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER, 1978. Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Line-up

WIGAN ATHLETIC

(Blue and White stripes)

| | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | JOHN BROWN | 1 | GARY PLUMLEY |
| 2 | TOMMY GORE | 2 | RICHARD WALDEN |
| 3 | JOE HINNIGAN | 3 | JOHN RELISH |
| 4 | NEIL DAVIDS | 4 | GRANT DAVIES |
| 5 | NOEL WARD | 5 | RON WALKER |
| 6 | IAN GILLIBRAND | 6 | TONY BYRNE |
| 7 | FRANK CORRIGAN | 7 | TREVOR THOMPSON |
| 8 | JEFF WRIGHT | 8 | NIGEL VAUGHAN |
| 9 | PETER HOUGHTON | 9 | HOWARD GODDARD |
| 10 | JOHN WILKIE | 10 | EDDIE WOODS |
| 11 | IAN PURDIE | 11 | MARK WILLIAMS |
| 12 | ALAN CROMPTON | 12 | COLIN SINCLAIR |

Referee : Mr. A. McDONALD (Sutton Coldfield)

Mr. Angus McDonald commenced with the Birmingham works and progress via Midland Counties and West Midland League to the Football League List. A married man, with two children, he is a Purchasing Manager, and enjoys playing golf.

Linesmen :

Mr. D. B. Allison (Lancaster) Red Flag, Mr. G. Jones (Wirral) Yellow Flag.

OPINION

by Harold Ashurst

Latics' exit from the League Cup at the hands of second division Luton Town on Tuesday night was made that much easier to swallow when the team were paid a visit by Eric Morecambe after the game.



Eric "the tall one with the glasses" is a vice-president of the club and as you'll probably know doesn't miss an opportunity to plug his side when he appears on television.

Eric was approached by an excited yours truly, clutching a pen and programme and asked for his autograph.

"Certainly sunshine," came the reply, "let's get on the coach first." To which Eric hopped on the team coach much to the delight of the players.

There then followed five minutes of delightful banter.

What did you think of the match?

"Football wise it was funnier than Ernie Wise," said Eric.

What do you think of Wigan?

"I remember Wigan Athletic many years ago when they played at Morecambe in the Lancashire Combination. They were good for a laugh then as well"

On a serious note he said: "Wigan played well and they have emerged with credit. They will do well in the League but the Wigan people mustn't expect too much too soon. It will come."

Praise indeed from a man who knows his football and the team's conversation with Eric Morecambe did a lot to lift their disappointment.

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RESULTS 1978-79

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

| | Date | Opponents | Score | Gate | Scorers |
|--------|--------------|-----------|-------|-----------|---------|
| 1978 | | | | | |
| Aug 19 | Herford | 0-0 | 5,674 | x x x x x | |
| 23 | GRIMSBY | 0-3 | 9,227 | x x x x x | |
| | Reaing | 0-2 | 4,788 | x x x x x | |
| Sept 2 | NEWPORT | | | | |
| 9 | Wimbledon | | | | |
| 13 | ROCHDALE | | | | |
| 16 | BRAFORD | | | | |
| 23 | YORK | | | | |
| 26 | Portsmouth | | | | |
| 30 | SCUNTHORPE | | | | |
| Oct 7 | Huddersfield | | | | |
| 14 | DONCASTER | | | | |
| 18 | HALIFAX | | | | |
| 21 | Barnsley | | | | |
| 28 | NORTHAMPTON | | | | |
| Nov 4 | Stockport | | | | |
| 10 | Newport | | | | |
| 18 | READING | FA 1 | | | |
| 25 | TORQUAY | | | | |
| Dec 9 | Darlington | | | | |
| 16 | FA 2 | | | | |
| 23 | Port Vale | | | | |
| 26 | CREWE | | | | |
| 30 | ALDERSHOT | | | | |
| 1979 | | | | | |
| Jan 1 | Harlepool | | | | |
| 6 | ROCHDALE | | | | |
| 13 | WIMBLEDON | | | | |
| 20 | Bradford | | | | |
| 27 | YORK | | | | |
| 3 | PORTSMOUTH | | | | |
| Feb 10 | Scunthorpe | | | | |
| 17 | HUDDERSFIELD | | | | |
| 24 | DONCASTER | | | | |
| Mar 3 | BARNESLEY | | | | |
| 10 | Northampton | | | | |
| 17 | STOCKPORT | | | | |
| 24 | Grimsby | | | | |
| 28 | HEREFORD | | | | |
| 31 | BOURNEMOUTH | | | | |
| Apr 7 | Torquay | | | | |
| 13 | PORT VALE | | | | |
| 14 | Crewe | | | | |
| 16 | HARTLEPOOL | | | | |
| 21 | Aldershot | | | | |
| 24 | Halifax | | | | |
| 28 | DARLINGTON | | | | |
| May 9 | Bournemouth | | | | |
| 12 | FA CUP FINAL | | | | |
| 14 | Gary | | | | |
| 13 | Smart | | | | |
| 12 | Comperton | | | | |
| 11 | Wilkie | | | | |
| 10 | Houghton | | | | |
| 9 | Wright | | | | |
| 8 | Gillibrand | | | | |
| 7 | Corrigan | | | | |
| 6 | Ward | | | | |
| 5 | Davids | | | | |
| 4 | Hinigan | | | | |
| 3 | Gowen | | | | |
| 2 | Brown | | | | |
| 1 | Brown | | | | |
| 10 | Wright | | | | |
| 9 | Houghson | | | | |
| 8 | Wright | | | | |
| 7 | Gillibrand | | | | |
| 6 | Ward | | | | |
| 5 | Davids | | | | |
| 4 | Hinigan | | | | |
| 3 | Gowen | | | | |
| 2 | Brown | | | | |
| 1 | Brown | | | | |

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

| 1978 | | 1979 | |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| August— | | January— | |
| 18—Blackpool 'A' | H 2-1 | 1—Oldham Ath. Res. | H (Mn.) |
| 25—Southport Res. | H 1-1 | 6—Morecambe Res. | H |
| September— | | 13—Port Vale Res. | A |
| 2—Everton 'A' | A | 20—Manchester City 'A' | H |
| 9—Chester 'A' | H | 27—Macclesfield T. Res. | A |
| 15—Tranmere R. Res. | A (Fri.) | February— | |
| 16— | | 3—Bradford City Res. | A |
| 23—Bradford City Res. | H | 10—Crewe Alex Res. | H |
| 30—Liverpool 'A' | A | 17—Manchester Utd. 'A' | A |
| October— | | 24—Oldham Ath. Res. | A |
| 7—Rochdale Res. | H | March— | |
| 14—Rochdale Res. | A | 3—Carlisle Res. | A |
| 21—Carlisle Utd. Res. | H | 10—Stockport County 'A' | H |
| 27—Stockport County 'A' | A (Fri.) | 17—Bolton Wanderers 'B' | A |
| November— | | 24—Bolton Wanderers 'B' | H |
| 11—Tranmere R. Res. | H | 31—Wrexham Res. | A |
| 18—Crewe Alex 'A' | A | April— | |
| 25—Manchester City 'A' | A | 7—Manchester Utd. 'A' | H |
| December— | | 13—Southport Res. | A (Fri.) |
| 2—Blackpool 'A' | A | 15—Wrexham Res. | H |
| 9—Port Vale Res. | H | 16— | |
| 16—Chester 'A' | A | 21—Liverpool 'A' | H |
| 23—Macclesfield T. Res. | H | 28— | |
| 26— | | May— | |
| 30—Morecambe Res. | A | 5—Everton 'A' | H |

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